By the King.

A Proclamation for ſetling the Plantation of Virginia.

WHereas the Colonie of *Virginia*, Planted by the hands of Our moſt deare Father of bleſſed memory, for the propagation of Chriſtian Religion, the increaſe of Trade, and the enlarging of his Royall Empire, hath not hitherto proſpered ſo happily, as was hoped and deſired, A great occaſion whereof his late Maieſty conceiued to be, for that the gouernment of that Colony was committed to the Company of Virginia, encorporated of a multitude of perſons of ſeuerall diſpoſitions, amongſt whom the affaires of greateſt moment were, and muſt be ruled by the greater number of Votes and Voyces; And therefore his late Maieſtie, out of his great Wiſedome, and depth of Judgement, did deſire to reſume that popular gouernment, and accordingly the Letters Patents of that Incorporation, were by his Highneſſe direction in a Legall courſe queſtioned, and thereupon iudicially repealed, and adiudged to bee voyde; Wherein his Maieſties ayme was onely, to reduce that gouernment into ſuch a right courſe, as might beſt agree with that forme which was held in the reſt of his Royall Monarchy, and was not intended by him, to take away, or impeach the particular Intereſt of any Planter, or Aduenturer, nor to alter the ſame, otherwiſe then ſhould be of neceſſity for the good of the publique: And whereas We continue the like care of thoſe Colonies and Plantations, as Our late deare Father did, and vpon deliberate aduice and conſideration, are of the ſame Judgement that Our ſaid Father was of, for the gouernment of that Colony of Virginia; Now leſt the apprehenſion of former perſonall differences, which haue heretofore happened (the reuiuing and continuing whereof We vtterly diſallow, and ſtrictly forbid) might diſtract the mindes of the Planters and Aduenturers, or the opinion, that We would neglect thoſe Plantations, might diſcourage men to goe or ſend thither, & ſo hinder the perfecting of that Worke, wherin We hold the honor of Our deare Father deceaſed, and Our owne honour to be deeply engaged; We haue thought fit to declare, and by Our Royal Proclamation to publiſh Our owne Judgement, and reſolution in theſe things, which by Gods aſſiſtance Wee purpoſe conſtantly to purſue. And therefore Wee doe by theſe preſents publiſh and declare to all Our louing Subiects, and to the whole World, that Wee hold thoſe Territories of Virginia and the Sommer-Ilands, as alſo that of New England, where Our Colonies are already planted, & within the limits & bounds wherof, Our late deare Father, by his Letters Patents, vnder his great Seale of England, remaining of Record, hath giuen leaue and liberty to his Subiects to plant and inhabite, to be a part of Our Royall Empire, deſcended vpon Us and vndoubtedly belonging and appertaining vnto Us; And that We hold Our ſelfe, alwell bound by Our Regal office, to protect, maintaine, and ſupport the ſame, and are ſo reſolued to doe, as any other part of Our Dominions:

And that Our full reſolution is, to the end that there may be one vniforme courſe of Gouernment, in, and through all Our Whole Monarchie, That the Gouernment of the Colonie of Vir-

ginia shall immediatly depend vpon Our Selfe, and not be committed to any Company or Corporation, to whom it may be proper to trust matters of Trade and Commerce, but cannot bee fit or safe to communicate the ordering of State-affaires, be they of neuer so meane consequence: And that therefore Wee haue determined, That Our Commissioners for those Affaires, shall proceed according to the tenor of Our Commission directed vnto them, vntill Wee shall declare Our further pleasure therein. Nevertheless We doe herby declare, That Wee are resolued, with as much conuenient expedition, as Our Affaires of greater importance will giue leaue, to establish a Councell, consisting of a few persons of vnderstanding and qualitie, to whom We will giue trust for the immediate care of the Affaires of that Colony, and who shall be answerable to Us for their proceedings, and in matters of greater moment, shall be subordinate and attendant vnto Our Priuie Councell heere; And that We will also establish another Councell to be resident in Virginia, Who shall be subordinate to Our Councell here for that Colonie; and that at Our owne charge We will maintaine those publique Officers and Ministers, and that strength of Men, Munition, and Fortification, as shall be fit and necessary for the defence of that Plantation, and will by any course that shall be desired of Us, settle and assure the particular rights and interests of euery Planter and Aduenturer, in any of those Territories, which shall desire the same, to giue them full satisfaction for their quiet and assured enioying thereof.

And lastly, Whereas it is agreed on all sides, that the Tobacco of those plantations of Virginia and the Sommer Ilands (Which is the onely present meanes for their subsisting) cannot be managed for the good of the Plantations, vnlesse it be brought into one hand, whereby the forreigne Tobacco may be carefully kept out, and the Tobacco of those Plantations may yeeld a certaine and ready price to the owners thereof; Wee doe hereby declare, That to auoid all differences and contrariety of opinions, which will hardly be reconciled amongst the Planters and Aduenturers themselues, We are resolued to take the same into Our owne hands, and by Our seruants or Agents for Us, to giue such prices to the Planters and Aduenturers for the same, as may giue them reasonable satisfaction and encouragement; but of the maner thereof, Wee will determine hereafter at better leisure: And when We shall haue concluded the same, We shall expect, that all Our louing Subiects will readily conforme themselues thereunto.

And in the meane time, because the importation and vse of forreigne Tobacco, Which is not of the growth of those Plantations, or one of them, Will visibly & assuredly vndermine and destroy those Plantations, by taking away the meanes of their subsistence, We doe hereby strictly charge and command, That Our late Proclamation, bearing date the ninth day of April last, intituled, (A Proclamation touching Tobacco) shall in all points and parts thereof, be duely and strictly obserued, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further penalties and punishments, as by the sayd Proclamation are to be inflicted vpon the offenders. And We doe hereby aduise all Our louing Subiects, and all others whom it may concerne, not to aduenture the breach of our Royall Commandement in any of the premisses, We being fully resolued, vpon no importunitie or intercession whatsoeuer, to release or remit the deserued punishment of such, as shall dare to offend against the same, seeing We holde not Our Selfe onely, but Our people interested therein.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, the thirteenth day of May, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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